BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of
Management Services

Infoline

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May 16, 2003

- **The median income of families in BC falls.**
- **Exports increase for the third consecutive month.**
- **35% of British Columbians are not religious.**

Census 2001

- **The median income of families in BC was $54,840 in 2000, a 2.3% drop (after adjusting for inflation) from 1990.** In the census metropolitan area of Vancouver the median income was $57,926 in 2000, a 3.9% decline from 1990. The median income in Victoria jumped 4.9% to $59,015, higher than Vancouver. When families in BC were ranked by income, the lowest decile (10%) had an average income of $9,727 and the highest decile had an average income of $176,762. After Toronto, Vancouver had the most unequally distributed income. The bottom 10% of families had an average income of $8,723 and the top 10% had an average income of $205,199.

  Canadian families had a median income of $55,016 in 2000, up 0.8% (after adjusting for inflation) from 1990. Families in Northwest Territories ($69,046) and Yukon ($63,490) had the highest median income. Provincially, Ontario families ($61,024) had the highest median income and Newfoundland and Labrador families ($41,214) had the lowest. The number of individuals living in low income (living in a family with an income lower than the low-income cutoff) in Canada remained at 16% in 2000, unchanged from 10 years ago. The proportion of children living in low income remained unchanged at 18%.

  Source: Census 2001

- **Over one-third (35%) of British Columbians reported that they had no religion in 2001, up from 30% in 1991.** The share of Protestants fell from 42% in 1991 to 31% in 2001. The number of people reporting Roman Catholic faith also declined from 18% in 1991 to 17% in 2001. Growth was seen among Muslims (2%), Buddhists (2%), Hindus (1%) and Sikhs (4%). There was a 134.8% increase in number of Buddhists and a 81.5% increase in the number of Sikhs. Almost half (49%) of all Sikhs in Canada lived in BC in 2001.

  In Canada, 43% of people identified themselves as Roman Catholic, making it the most common religion in the country. Twenty-nine percent said they were Protestant. The number of people reporting no religion increased from 12% in 1991 to 16%. Yukon (37%) had the highest proportion of people who reported having no religion while Newfoundland and Labrador (3%) had the lowest. In Quebec, 83% of people were Roman Catholics, the largest proportion in the country.

  Source: Census 2001

The Economy

- **The value of exports of BC products increased 0.5% (seasonally adjusted) in March, the third consecutive month of growth.** Climbing energy exports (+17.8%) outweighed declines in all other categories.

  Exports to the United States were up 3.9%, mainly due to a jump in exports of energy (+19.0%). Forestry (+0.7%) and agriculture and fishing (+3.6%) products also made gains. Exports to countries other than the United States fell 6.6%. Exports of forestry (-3.3%) and agriculture and fishing (-37.3%) products dropped.

  Source: BC Stats

- **British Columbia's manufacturing shipments slipped 0.4% (seasonally adjusted) in March.** Growth in shipments of non-durables (+4.7%) was outweighed by declines in durables (-4.0%). Paper (+14.9%) was the main driving force for the increase in non-durables. On the durables side, wood shipments fell 5.5%.

Report Tourism in Thompson-Okanagan

Did you know...
There were 2.4 million vehicles registered in BC in the fourth quarter of 2002.
Light vehicles (under 4.5 tonnes) made up 96% of the total.

Across Canada, manufacturing shipments grew 1.4% in March. The territories (+21.1%) and New Brunswick (+8.5%) made the largest gains. Manitoba (-2.1%), Quebec (-1.6%) and BC (-0.4%) were the only provinces to see declines. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in BC and the territories fell 10.5% (seasonally adjusted) in March.** Canada-wide, every province saw declines, the largest of which were BC (-10.5%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-5.2%). Overall, Canadian new motor vehicle sales fell 4.4%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts in the province fell (-2.1%, seasonally adjusted) for the second consecutive month in March.** Spending at both drinking places (-3.7%) and food service establishments (-2.0%) dropped. Nationally, receipts inched up (+0.3%) as both food service establishments (+0.4%) and drinking places (+0.1%) made gains. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **The Vancouver Port Authority handled 33.3 million metric tonnes of cargo in the first half of last year, a 12.0% decline from the same period of 2001.** The drop was mainly due to lower coal shipments to Japan and South Korea. Containerized tonnage through the port rose 7%. Shipping at the Port of Vancouver made up 18% of the Canadian total. Activity at ports across the country inched up 0.1%. The Newfoundland Offshore port (+82.8%) saw the biggest jump in activity while Port Hawkesbury (-40.3%) saw the largest decline. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The New Housing Price Index for both Vancouver (+2.7%) and Victoria (+7.1%) rose in March, compared to the same month of 2002.** In Vancouver, land prices remained fairly flat (+0.1%) but housing prices were up 4.4%. In Victoria both land (+5.7%) and housing (+8.9%) prices climbed.
Source: Statistics Canada

- **The apartment building construction price index for Vancouver grew 1.6% in the first quarter of 2003, compared to the same quarter of the previous year.** Toronto (+4.1%) saw the biggest increase, followed by Calgary (+3.7%) and Ottawa (+3.4%).
Source: Statistics Canada

- **The non-residential building construction price index was up 1.2% in Vancouver in the first quarter of this year, compared to the first quarter of 2002.** Canada-wide the index grew 2.7%. The largest gains were in Calgary (+3.3%) and Toronto (+3.1%).
Source: Statistics Canada

Driving

- **BC drivers are more likely to fall asleep at the wheel than other Canadians or at least admit to it.** Of the BC drivers surveyed, 10% said they had fallen asleep at the wheel in the past year. BC drivers were also most likely to change lanes without signalling and flash high beams. BC drivers were least likely to run yellow lights that were turning red. Overall, 85% of those surveyed admit to committing some form of aggressive driving in the last year. Alberta had the most aggressive drivers, with 89% committing aggressive acts. Ontario (88%) was second. Atlantic Canada (77%) and Quebec (77%) were home to the least aggressive drivers.
Source: Canada Safety Council & Steel Alliance

Science and Technology

- **The federal government planned to increase spending on scientific and technological activities by 3.0% in 2002/2003 to $7.7 billion.** Most (78%) of the funds were spent on activities in the natural sciences and engineering. Expenditures on research and development by the federal government were $5.1 billion and accounted for 44% of total expenditures on research and development in Canada. The number of person-years involved in federal scientific and technology activities declined 1.1% in 2002/2003 to 32,335. Over half (53%) of the person-years were involved with related scientific activities. *Source: SC 88-204-XIE*

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Infoline Report

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Originally published in *Tourism Sector Monitor*, Issue 03-04. Annual subscription $60 + GST

Tourism in Thompson-Okanagan

Introduction

Thompson-Okanagan is made up of five regional districts, with the Thompson-Nicola region having the largest number of establishments. Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon, and Penticton are among the urban centres in this region.

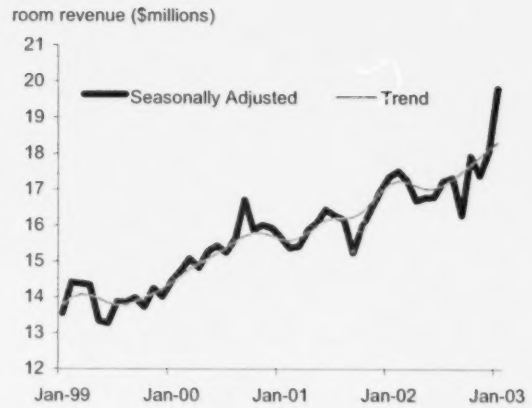
Thompson-Okanagan offers travellers a variety of activities. The region is filled with many establishments, with the largest number (393) of any development region in the province. The region gives visitors the opportunity to explore mountains, lakes, and other landscapes while providing a full range of activities such as skiing, boating, golfing, camping, and hiking. The weather in Thompson-Okanagan is typically the warmest in the province throughout the summer months.

Revenues expand in 2002

Room revenues at hotels and other establishments in Thompson-Okanagan continued to grow (+7.7%) in 2002 to $206.6 million. Thompson-Okanagan is one of only two regions that have experienced increases in revenues each year since 1995 (the other being Vancouver Island/Coast). Revenues have grown at an average rate of 6.0% per annum since 1995, which is the same as the province as a whole.

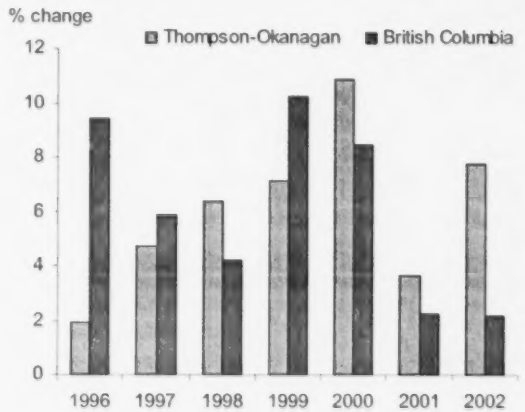
Thompson-Okanagan had a quick recovery from the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US. A drop in revenues was apparent in September, followed by an almost immediate recovery to the path that existed prior to the attacks.

Thompson-Okanagan room revenues continue to expand into 2003



Thompson-Okanagan outperformed the province as a whole in 2002 with a 7.7% rise in revenues compared with a 2.2% increase in BC. This is the third consecutive year that the region has outperformed the balance of the province.

Thompson-Okanagan has outpaced BC in terms of revenue growth for three straight years



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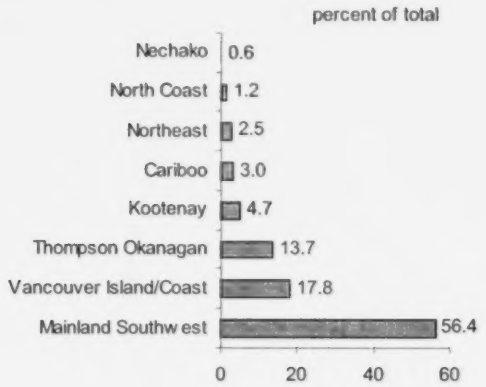
Thompson-Okanagan is ranked third, behind Vancouver Island/Coast, in terms of room revenue generated in the province. The region was responsible for 13.7% of provincial room revenue in 2002, the same portion it held in 1995.

Thompson-Okanagan accounts for the third largest portion of provincial room revenues



Regional Districts

The Central Okanagan District was responsible for almost one-third (31.2%) of the room revenue in Thompson-Okanagan in 2002. The Okanagan-Similkameen region has expanded the fastest over the past few years with an annual average growth rate of 7.7% since 1995. The Central Okanagan district is not too far behind (7.5%) and the Thompson-Nicola region (4.3%) has seen the slowest average annual growth.

Urban Centres

Kelowna made up over one-quarter (28%) of room revenues for Thompson-Okanagan in 2002. Kamloops contributed 18% and Penticton added 10%. Room revenues in Vernon saw the biggest jump in 2002, growing 11.8%.

Annual Room Revenues for Regional Districts in Thompson-Okanagan

	Okanagan-Similkameen	Thompson-Nicola	Central Okanagan	North Okanagan	Columbia-Shuswap	Thompson Okanagan
1995	22,484	38,476	39,413	12,011	24,928	137,312
1996	22,869	41,753	36,900	12,110	26,327	139,958
1997	23,057	43,247	40,601	12,805	26,811	146,520
1998	25,679	45,900	43,313	13,226	27,681	155,800
1999	26,237	47,425	49,068	15,232	28,933	166,895
2000	30,448	51,185	56,024	16,452	30,938	185,049
2001	32,919	51,381	59,016	16,269	32,201	191,784
2002	37,335	51,634	64,481	18,509	34,658	206,617
			Percentage Change			
1996	1.7	8.5	-6.4	0.8	5.6	1.9
1997	0.8	3.6	10.0	5.7	1.8	4.7
1998	11.4	6.1	6.7	3.3	3.2	6.3
1999	2.2	3.3	13.3	15.2	4.5	7.1
2000	16.1	7.9	14.2	8.0	6.9	10.9
2001	8.1	0.4	5.3	-1.1	4.1	3.6
2002	13.4	0.5	9.3	13.8	7.6	7.7

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/03	% change on one year ago
BC	4,155.8	0.8
Canada	31,499.6	0.8
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2002 Prelim.	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	134,365	2.7
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	126,141	1.8
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	30,459	0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,445	-0.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar	2,814	-0.4
Merchandise Exports - Mar	2,617	0.5
Retail Sales - Feb	3,468	0.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)	Mar '03	% change
BC	120.6	2.6
Canada	122.8	3.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr '03	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,190	0.1
Employed - BC	2,012	-0.4
Unemployed - BC	177	5.5
		Mar '03
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.1	7.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.5	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 14/03	May 15/02
Prime Business Rate	5.00	4.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.35	5.40
- 5 year	6.50	7.30
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 14/03	May 15/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.3787	1.5539
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.7278	0.6417
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr '03	one year ago
BC	680.37	1.8
Canada	659.75	1.4

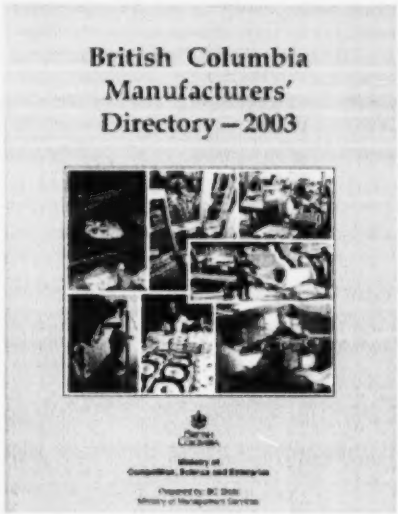
SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2003 Manufacturers' Directory



600 pages

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